

Wildfire Risk Reduction for Outdoor Camps

April 22, 2014

<http://ucanr.edu/wildfireandcamps>

Locations: (Groveland Community Center – confirmed; Berkeley Tuolumne Camp – checking; Camp Tawonga – confirmed))

Agenda:

8:30 – Registration – Groveland Community Center

9:00 – Opening Remarks – Susie Kocher and Carol Rice

9:15 – Welcome to Groveland RD – Alex Blane, Groveland District Ranger

9:35 Fire the Sierra - Brandon Collins – 45 minutes

- Overview of Fire's Role in the Sierras
- Local fire effects in the Berkeley-Tuolumne/Camp Towanga area (i.e. near—camp fire issues)
- Vegetation management as a way to reduce fire hazards
- What were the risks that caused damage? Vegetation? (needed for privacy, or trampled completely?), adjacent radiant heat from unmanaged lands nearby?
- What are some of the best strategies for management within and around the camps?

10:05 Wildfire Risk and Structure Protection – Ethan Foote

- What can be done to retrofit the structures, tent cabins. New canvas material? Tent platform designs, coatings, ignition-resistant materials

10:25 BREAK

10:40 Communications with Emergency Responders Before, During and After the Wildfire –John Swanson, Ret USFS

- Communications both in camp and between camps during emergencies.
- Possible to develop a network of camps to develop and share best practices?
- Communication with fire response agencies

11:00 Resource Protection – Carol Rice and Kevin Locke

- What strategies work for managing vegetation in concert with recreation needs. Especially consider streamside concerns, privacy issues

11:20 Camps' Role in a Wildfire – Carol Rice

- What fire protection systems could have made a difference: foam, gel, retardant? Is water abundant and useful?
- Possible training staff and management in initial attack (not sustained)
- Evacuation measures, safety of campers. When do you evacuate? Smoke issues make evacuation early best option -

11:40 - 12:00 – Break for Lunch – Pick up box lunch and drive to Berkeley Tuolumne Camp

12:30 – 1:00 – View of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp

1:00 – 1:30 – Drive to Camp Tawonga with midway stop

1:30 – 2:00 – Overview of Rim Fire Complex – Jan Van Wagtendonk

2:00 – 2:40 – Example from Camps - Mike Yaley, Lair of Bear, Ryan Stewart, Edison

- The Lair has a Master Plan, thinned forest, started restoration of meadow AND reforestation of aspen, brought campers to active logging shows to show benefits of treatments.
- Specific to the Lair, what would you change to make it fit new situation & knowledge?
- How has forest management and recreation been coordinated at So Cal Edison?

2:40 – 3:10 Forest Recovery – Susie Kocher

- Are they ready for recovery?
- What procedures and practices could aid recovery?

3:10 – 3:35 – How Can Camps Use This Information? Planning and Implementation – Cheryl Miller

- Use of FSCs to get increased funding
- Look to Coop Extension for sources of information
- CWPPs as a way to decrease insurance, further collaborate with neighbors
- Master Plans
- Timber revenue as funding source
- FSCs as a way for outreach, developing an environmental learning module

3:35 – 4:15 – Tour of Camp Tawonga – Ken Kramarz

4:15 -4:45 – Wrap-up, Questions

4:45 – Adjourn